

In this document, we provide additional details, which are sufficient for replicating our simulation study. The parameters in our simulations are the following.

$ICC$ , the Intra-class correlation coefficient in the therapist population

$k_{\text{pop}}$ , the number of therapists in the therapist population

$m$ , the number of patients seen by each therapist at each iteration

$k$ , the number of therapists in the clinic population

$q$ , the percentile used to select therapists to remove at each iteration

$N$ , number of iterations

Note that the only parameter we varied was  $ICC = 0.05, 0.1, 0.2$ . We assume a population size of  $k_{\text{pop}} = 1000$  therapists. Our clinic size was  $k = 50$ . Each therapist saw  $m = 30$  patients before each replacement decision was made. Therapists with response rates in the  $q = 0.05$  percentile were replaced at each decision. We repeated the process of replacing therapists a total of  $N = 50$  times.

The underlying model we assume is a binary mixed effects model, which is defined as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{ij} &= \text{Binary}(p_j) \\ p_j &= \text{expit}(\alpha_j) \\ \alpha_j &= \mathcal{N}\left(0, \sigma_\alpha^2 \equiv \frac{\pi^2/3 \cdot ICC}{1 - ICC}\right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $Y_{ij}$  is the binary outcome of the  $i$ th patient when seen by the  $j$ th therapist,  $p_j$  is the success rate (or true response rate) of the  $j$ th therapist, and mean and variance parameters of the distribution of  $\alpha_j$  correspond to a therapist population with an average response rate of 50% and variability of therapist effects of  $ICC$ .

The simulation procedure has five steps (as shown in the flow chart in Figure 2):

1. **Simulate the therapist population:** For therapist  $j = 1, \dots, k_{\text{pop}}$ , their true response rate  $p_j$  is obtained from our model (by taking  $k_{\text{pop}}$  iid draws from a normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\alpha^2)$ , then expit-transforming them).
2. **Select the initial clinic population:** We randomly selected  $k$  therapists from the population to join the clinic (reducing the therapists population by  $k$ ).
3. **Simulate patient outcomes:** For therapist  $j$  in the clinic population, patient outcomes were obtained by taking  $m$  iid draws from a  $\text{Binary}(p_j)$  distribution.
4. **Remove therapists with outcomes in the lowest  $q\%$ :** Response rates for each therapist were computed as the average of their  $m$  patient responses. Therapists with response rates in the  $q$ th percentile are removed from the clinic population and do not return to the therapist population. (Hence a therapist that has been removed from the clinic cannot return to the clinic.)
5. **Replace therapists with a random sample from the therapist population:** In order to bring the clinic population size back to  $k$ , we replace the removed therapists with random draws from the therapist population (reducing the therapist population again).

Steps 3-5 are repeated  $N$  times to obtain results for one clinic over time. Finally, we repeated this simulation procedure 10,000 to obtain results over 10,000 simulated clinics.